

Message Text

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TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, GW, BR, NL
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR ENERGY -- GERMAN NEWSPAPER REPORT
ON DUTCH GOVERNMENT VIEWS ABOUT URENCO
ENRICHED URANIUM FOR BRAZIL

REF: BONN 19187, THE HAGUE 6966

1. SUMMARY. THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER "BONNER
GENERALANZEIGER" (GAZ) REPORTS ON DEC. 2L THAT THE
DUTCH GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS
ON THE DELIVERY OF ENRICHED URANIUM FROM THE BRITISH-
DUTCH-GERMAN URENCO PLANT AT ALMELO, NETHERLANDS, TO
BRAZIL. THIS FUEL IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE THE FIRST
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CORE LOAD FOR THE LIGHT-WATER REACTORS THAT THE
GERMAN KRAFTWERK UNION (KWU) WILL CONSTRUCT UNDER
THE GERMAN-BRASILIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. GAZ EXPLAINS THAT THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY
WILL NOT GIVE ITS APPROVAL UNLESS BRAZIL EITHER

SIGNS THE NPT OR ACCEPTS IAEA CONTROLS OVER THE COMPLETE FUEL CYCLE OF ITS FUTURE NUCLEAR FACILITIES. GAZ CONTINUES THAT THE CANCELLATIONS WOULD ONLY EFFECT THE GERMAN-BRASILIAN DEAL INDIRECTLY, AS KWU WAS FREE TO FIND OTHER CONTRACTORS FOR ENRICHED URANIUM. THIS, HOWEVER, WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT:

A. THE NEWSPAPER REPORT MAY STEM FROM THE DECEMBER L7 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT THAT DECISIONS ON THE PLANNED EXPANSION OF THE ALMELO PLANT (SEE REFTEL) WERE PENDING THE OUTCOME OF ADDITIONAL TALKS BETWEEN THE FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS OF THE THREE PARTNER NATIONS TO SOLVE CERTAIN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS. OTHER GERMAN NEWSPAPER COMMENT INTERPRETS THIS AS A CONCESSION TO THE DUTCH COALITION PARTNER POLITICAL PARTY OF THE RADICALS, (PPR), WHICH HAD VOICED STRONG CONCERN ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY, ESPECIALLY THE ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

B. OUR OFFICIAL CONTACTS IN FRG CONFIRM THAT SUCH INTER-GOVERNMENT TALKS ARE TO TAKE PLACE ASAP, BUT REFUSED ANY FURTHER COMMENT.
STOESSEL

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